

Carrizozo Outlook

Published Weekly in the Interest of Carrizozo and Lincoln County

VOL. XVI - NO. 42

CARRIZOZO, LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1921

PRICE \$2.00 PER YEAR

RECORD OF CONGRESS FOR WORK PERFORMED NEVER BEEN EXCELLED

Washington, Dec. 3.—The extra session of the Sixty-seventh Congress adjourned November 25, after being in session since April 11, with the exception of a month's recess late in the summer to enable the Senate Finance committee opportunity to consider the new tax measure, without interruption of regular sessions.

When President Harding addressed the opening session April 13th he urged the enactment of the following laws:

A resolution declaring a state of peace between the United States and Germany; a budget system; an emergency tariff to insure the farmers; a permanent tariff providing ample protection to home industries; a new tax system which should lessen the burden of general taxation and go away with the excess profits taxes; a paring of appropriation bills; and caution in incurring new obligations to the end that national expenditures might be greatly reduced; federal aid in building of public highways; development of the merchant marine; coordination of the various government agencies handling relief for ex-service men; the enactment of a maternity and infancy welfare law; creation of a department of public welfare; action to punish lynching by federal statutes; encouragement for cable, radio and aviation service.

President Asked Many Things.

When the president's requested program was presented it was regarded as more than the Congress could accomplish during the time of its special session. As to how well it headed the requests of the President and how diligently it has applied itself during the seven months (less one month's recess) of its deliberations the following tabulation of the most important laws enacted will show:

Peace resolution stopping "state of war" between the United States and the Central Powers.

Establishment of a federal budget system.

Farmer's emergency train.

Agricultural credit act, providing \$1,000,000,000 revolving fund to be used by the War Finance corporation to finance agricultural and live stock interests.

Amendment of the Farm Loan Bank act whereby the funds available for farm loans were increased \$25,000,000.

Copper-Tidewater act to regulate "grain exchanges" and all dealing in "futures" in the grain trade.

"Factors Act" providing for federal regulation of all meat packing establishments, stockyards and other live stock interests.

Immigration restriction law.

Protection of American owned radio and cable services.

Long List of Things Done.

Creation of the veterans' bureau which consolidates all ex-service organizations under one head and "speeds up" the handling of all claims, in addition to increasing the benefits and privileges of disabled ex-service men.

Reorganization of Philippine financial system and extension of Philippine credit in order to save the islands from bankruptcy as a result of government of the islands under the Wilson administration.

Amendment of the Edge act to facilitate the organization of corporations to promote America's foreign trade.

Maternity and Infancy Welfare act. Appropriation of \$75,000,000 for state aid in building public highways.

"Anti-beer" act, strengthening the enforcement of the federal amendment providing prohibition.

Re-organization of the Indian bureau.

Enactment of a new tax measure which makes a reduction of \$10,000,000 in federal taxation this year and of \$20,000,000 next year, the bulk of which will be lifted from the "average citizen."

Cut over \$200,000,000 from appropriations requested by various federal departments and boards. The bulk of this cut was made in appropriations asked by the Navy and War departments and by the U. S. Shipping board.

This record is indisputable proof that instead of being a "do-nothing" Congress, no previous session of any scope of time or doing less, has done, enacted as many important laws in the interest of the taxpayer and public welfare.

MAYER FAMILY COMPLETE

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mayer came up from El Paso where they have been residing for the past six months. Mr. Mayer being associated with a garage at that place. They left Tuesday for Corpus Christi where Mr. Mayer will assist in closing the business of the year for the State Union's State Bank, after which he will be a permanent factor at the First National Bank of Carrizozo. We welcome the Mayers to our city, and will soon see the smiling face of Mr. Mayer at the window of the First National.

Miss Bertha Mayer has closed the old Mayer Grocery store at White Oaks and has joined her father and mother in Carrizozo. We now have the entire Mayer family with us, which as a whole, makes a valuable addition to our growing and thriving population.

HOW GOVERNMENT CROP REPORTS ARE MADE

(By Mrs. M. L. Blaney)

Over 200,000 Reporters Contribute Estimates Based on Knowledge of Local Conditions.

The time is 2:14 p. m.; the place, the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. In an anteroom several men are standing around a table each with one hand upon it, holding a large sheet of paper. The quarter hour strikes. There is a race for the door. A moment more and telegraph wires into virtually every city and town in the United States are ringing with the message of estimated crop conditions.

At the last meeting of the General Assembly of the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome, made up of delegates from the principal countries of the world, it was freely conceded that the United States Department of Agriculture has developed the most complete and accurate system of agriculture statistics ever devised. The work of crop estimating is so systematized and guaranteed that no one in or out of the department can know what a given crop report will be until the estimate is completed a few minutes before its release and in that short interval locked doors and disconnected telephones prevent anyone from obtaining advance information.

Reports Come From Every Town.

There are approximately 220,000 community crop reporters located in all parts of the United States. A trained agent or field agent is also placed in each state or group of similar states and supervises the work of gathering statistics in the territory under his charge. At the end of each month each field agent submits the crop information received from his reporters, average and summarizing the data, and reports the result to the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

Local reporters in every township or other small civil unit in every county in the United States report directly to the department every month crop conditions under their observation. Each county, also, is represented by a county reporter, who relays his personal observations, the reports of neighbors and others, and information received by interviews and over the telephone.

The monthly reports cover acreage, condition, yield, total production, stocks on farms, progress of farm work, wages, supply or deficiency of labor, fertilizers, and seeds. These reports are made for about 40 crops which represent about 95 per cent of the total agricultural production in the United States.

The reports of field agents on the speculative crops are mailed direct to the Secretary of Agriculture in special envelopes. These are separated from other mail in the Washington post office and are delivered by messenger to the Secretary or his first assistant, who places them, with the seals unbroken, in a safe, to which he alone has a key. The reports remain locked in the safe until the morning of the crop report day. The returns on speculative crops from the voluntary reporters come direct to the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates and are tabulated on separate sheets for each crop.

strict Precautions to Observe Secrecy.

On the evening before crop-report day all telephones are disconnected. The next morning all doors are locked and guards are stationed at the outer doors to prevent anyone entering or leaving when the crop-reporting period is in session. The sealed reports of field agents and crop specialists are turned over to the chief of the board, and the crop-reporting board begins its work. The board is composed of the Associate Chief of the Bureau of Markets and Crop Estimates, three of his most experienced assistants, and usually one or more field agents.

Each member of the board is supplied with a separate sheet for each crop. On the sheets are shown the names of the various counties, the estimates of the crop specialists and state field agents, the average of returns from the township or local reports, and the average of returns from special reporters, together with the report for the previous month for the same month of the previous year, and the 10-year average for the same month. The chairman of the board reads the comments of the field agents and crop specialists, the reports of the Weather Bureau for each state, and such other data as may be available.

With this information before him, each member proceeds, independently and without consultation with other members, to make his individual estimate of the crop condition for each state. The chairman then has the individual estimates in parallel columns and reads them. They are discussed by the board, and a single figure is adopted for the crop report. This figure is not an average of the figures of the individual members of the board, but a figure upon which all the individuals agree after hearing what factors influenced each member in forming his judgement. As a general rule, there is surprising unanimity of judgement, and little difficulty is had in reconciling differences.

As fast as the figures are determined by the board, they are turned over to a force of expert computers,

EDUCATIONAL NEWS

\$75,000,000 FOR PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

SCHOOL NOTES

(By Capt. E. E. Cole)

Seventy-five million dollars becomes available as federal aid for road construction in the various states, the money to be spent under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads Department of Agriculture, under the Federal Highway act, signed recently by the president. In addition, \$15,000,000 is appropriated for national forest roads. \$15,000,000 represents the federal government's appropriation to the work of building highways in the various states and must be matched, dollar for dollar, by funds from the state treasuries, except in states where more than 5 per cent of the area is unappropriated public lands. The \$75,000,000 appropriated is for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1922, and \$25,000,000 of the sum is available on January 1, 1922.

The Federal Highway act in a general way resembles the Federal Aid Act of 1916, but contains several new features. Administration of the act by the Secretary of Agriculture, and under him the Bureau of Public Roads, remains unchanged.

Apportionment of the fund to the states is almost the same as in the previous act, the funds being divided into three parts, one rare apportioned according to population, one according to area, and one part, according to mileage of rural and star mail routes. A new feature in the stipulation that no state shall receive less than one-half of 1 per cent of the total fund which, in this case, amounts to \$255,625. This stipulation will increase as the amount received by four of the smaller states, i.e., Delaware, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Changes in State Allocations.

There is considerable change however, in the manner in which a state may use its allotment. Each state must select a connected road system not exceeding 1 per cent of its total mileage for improvement with federal aid. This system will be divided into two classes, one of which will be known as inter-state highways and the other as inter-county highways.

The inter-state highways must not exceed three-eighths of the system apportioned; on them not more than 60 per cent of the state's allotment can be spent without the joint approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and the state highway department.

The inter-county highways, which consist of the remainder of the system selected, will receive the remainder of the state's allotment.

Except in states where more than 5 per cent of the area is unappropriated public land, the amount of federal aid received on any project must not exceed 50 per cent of the estimated cost. In states where more than 5 per cent of the area is unappropriated public land the 50 per cent allotment is increased by an amount equal to one-half the percentage of unappropriated public land in the state. Before any funds are paid to a state, the state must appropriate money, under the direct control of the state highway department, to match the federal allotment and for the maintenance of federal aid highways.

All highways in the interstate system must have a surfaced width of at least 18 feet, unless a narrower width is deemed permissible by the Secretary of Agriculture. In case a federal-aid highway is not properly maintained by a state, the state will be given 30 days notice by the department. At the end of that time if the highway is not in good condition of maintenance, the Secretary of Agriculture will maintain it out of the state's allotment and refuse to approve any new projects until reimbursement is made by the state.

Work for Quarter Million Men.

It is estimated by engineers of the United States Department of Agriculture that the federal aid roads under construction on October 31 will give employment to about 250,000 men, either directly on the actual road construction, or indirectly in the production of the materials which enter into the construction.

The new act, just signed, will, it is stated, keep these men at work, as far as weather conditions will permit, and thereby ease the unemployment situation from becoming more serious. Without the new appropriation many of the states would soon have been forced to curtail their work for lack of funds.

Last Friday, Dec. 9, the Carrizozo High School Basket Ball Team invaded Corona and played two games in which both the boys' and girls' teams were victorious. The girls won by a score of 15 to 7, and the boys by a score of 35 to 19.

The twelve counties are: Cofrus, Curry, De Baca, Eddy, Guadalupe, Lincoln, Santa Fe, San Juan, Sandoval, Valencia and Catron.

Those who convert the condition figures into numerical estimates of yield per acre for each state, and into United States totals or averages.

Immediate Release and Distribution.

The report is then summarized and a sufficient number of copies run off for immediate distribution to the press. Shortly before the time set for issuance of the report, the Secretary or Acting Secretary is admitted to the board room, reviews the work of the board and approves the reports.

Exactly at the minute set in advance by the Secretary, the report is released to representatives of the press associations and telegraph companies in waiting in another part of the building, and is at once flashed over the country by wire for publication in daily newspapers. At the same time, a telegraphic report is sent to the office of each State field agent, who issues a State report for papers in his own State. An hour later manuscript is forwarded to the Government Printing Office for publication in the Monthly Crop Reporter, which goes to all the voluntary reporters of the department.

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NEW CHANGES IN REVENUE LAW BEARING ON INCOME TAXES

The following statement is issued by Collector of Internal Revenue, B. G. Hernandez, District of New Mexico:

"Enactment of new revenue legislation has brought to the office of Collectors of Internal Revenue a flood of inquiries regarding various provisions. The Revenue Act of 1921 became effective November 23, 1921, unless otherwise provided for."

"To avoid error in the preparation of their returns and later difficulties with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, taxpayers are advised to carefully note the changes and when they become effective."

"The excess profits tax is repealed as of January 1, 1922. The rates for 1921 are unchanged."

"The surtax for the calendar year 1921 are unchanged, and range from 1 per cent on the amount of net income between \$5,000 and \$40,000 to 65 per cent on the amount of net income in excess of \$1,000,000. For the calendar year 1922 the surtax rates range from 1 per cent on the amount of net income between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to 50 per cent on the amount by which the net income exceeds \$200,000."

"The exemption allowed for a dependent is increased from \$200 to \$400. Married persons living with husband or wife and heads of families are allowed a personal exemption of \$2,500 instead of \$1,600 unless the net income is in excess of \$5,000, in which case the personal exemption is only \$2,000. The act provides that in no case shall the reduction of the personal exemption from \$2,500 to \$2,000 operate to increase the tax which would be payable if the exemption were \$2,500 by more than the amount of the net income in excess of \$5,000. This is to overcome the disparity in the case of two taxpayers, one of whom is just within the lower or \$2,000 exemption and the other just within the higher \$2,500 exemption."

"Single persons, and married persons not living with husband or wife, are allowed an exemption of \$1,600. Non-resident aliens are allowed a single personal exemption of \$1,000. Persons having gross incomes for 1921 of \$5,000 or over are required to make a return, regardless of the amount of net income."

"Provision is made for the repeal as of January 1, 1921 of the tax on stockholders of a personal service corporation as such. After that date such corporations are to be taxed in the same manner as other corporations."

"The Income tax on corporations for the calendar year 1922 and thereafter is increased from 10 to 12½ per cent. The \$2,000 exemption heretofore allowed corporations is to be granted only to those corporations whose net income is \$25,000 or less."

"Many persons are under the impression that the taxes on ice cream, soft drinks, etc., monthly returns of which are required, have been repealed with the enactment of the new act. These taxes remain in force until the end of the calendar year 1921."

"No change is made in the tax on admissions, except that after Jan. 1, 1922 there will be no tax where admission is 10 cents or less. Effective Jan. 1, 1922, the following taxes are also abolished: on musical instruments, sporting goods, chewing gum, portable electric fans, thermos bottles, for articles, pleasure boats and pleasure canoes, unless sold for more than \$1,000; toilet articles, medicines and numerous articles of apparel."

"In and after Jan. 1, 1922, the tax on various works of art is reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent, the tax on candy from 5 per cent to 3 per cent and the tax on carpets, rugs, trunks, valises, purses, fans, etc., from 10 per cent of sales price in excess of specified amounts to 5 per cent of sales price in excess of specified amounts."

"The tax on parcel post packages is eliminated effective Jan. 1, 1922."

"The new act provides that no taxpayer shall be subjected to unnecessary examinations or investigations, and only an inspection of his books of accounts shall be made for each taxable year unless the taxpayer requests otherwise, or the Commissioner notifies the taxpayer in writing that an additional inspection is necessary."

"The period for filing returns on the calendar year basis is from Jan. 1 to March 15, 1922. This year, as last, the tax may be paid in full at the time of filing the return or in four equal installments, due on or before March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15."

"Copies of the revenue act may be had by application to this office."

RARE WORKS OF ART

Rare specimens of artistic wax work such as has attracted much attention at World's Fairs, typifying true peasant life in Old Mexico, may now be seen at this office. The old artist, now dead, was the recipient of many medals at different expositions in this and other countries. His son, Francisco Vargas, Jr., an artist of gaining fame, is continuing the